

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CLERK'S OFFICE

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

DOCKET NO. 2013-275-WS

APPLICATION OF CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

Carolina Water Service, Inc. ("Applicant" or "Company" or "CWS") has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("the Commission") for an adjustment of its rates and charges and for modification of certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service. The Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240 and 10 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-512.4.A and 103-712.4.A. CWS provides water and sewer service to the public for compensation in certain areas of South Carolina pursuant to rates authorized by Commission Order No. 2012-31 in Docket No. 2011-47-WS. A copy of Commission Order No. 2012-31 is available on the Commission's website (www.psc.sc.gov) under Docket No. 2011-47-WS.

In its Application, CWS requests that the Commission approve an increase in its monthly water and sewer charges and in its water and sewer account set-up charges and its sewer notification fee. The Company also seeks approval to modify its tariff, pursuant to 10 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-503 and 103-703. More specifically, the Applicant proposes to include in its tariff charges to recover its costs of disconnecting its customers from its facilities in certain circumstances; charges to recover its costs of repair of its water and sewer facilities which have been damaged by tampering; charges to recover its costs of pumping its customer's interceptor tanks; and charges to recover its costs for the installation of certain water meters.

THE PROPOSED NEW RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH BELOW
(The complete rate schedule, including the Company's application, is available from the Company at the address below and on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov.)

WATER

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Base Facilities Charge per single family house, condominium, mobile home or apartment unit:	\$12.16 per unit	\$15.06 per unit
Commodity charge:	\$3.89 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$4.88 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft

Commercial

**Base Facilities Charge
 by meter size:**

5/8" meter	\$ 12.16	\$ 15.06
1"	\$ 31.81	\$ 39.40
1.5"	\$ 63.63	\$ 78.81
2"	\$101.80	\$126.08
3"	\$190.89	\$236.42
4"	\$318.14	\$394.01

Commodity Charge:	\$ 3.89 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$ 4.88 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
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**Charges for Water Distribution
 Only**

Where water is purchased from a government body or agency or other entity for distribution and resale by the Company, the following rates apply:

Residential

Base Facilities Charge per single family house, condominium, mobile home or apartment unit:	\$12.16 per unit	\$ 15.06 per unit
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Commodity charge:	\$ 2.23 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$ 2.79 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
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Commercial

**Base Facilities Charge
 by meter size:**

5/8" meter	\$ 12.16	\$ 15.06
1"	\$ 31.81	\$ 39.40
1.5"	\$ 63.63	\$ 78.81
2"	\$101.80	\$126.08
3"	\$190.89	\$236.42
4"	\$318.14	\$394.01

Commodity charge:	\$ 2.23 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$ 2.79 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
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Water Meter

**5/8 inches x
 3/4 inches
 meter** **\$100 when installed by
 the Utility**

All meters shall meet Utility's standards. All residential and irrigation meters shall be installed by the Utility, unless the Utility directs otherwise, and the customer shall be billed for the actual cost of installation not to exceed \$150.00 when installed by the Utility. All other meters shall be installed by the Utility, unless the Utility directs otherwise, and the customer shall be billed for the Utility's actual cost of installation. In all cases where the Developer or customer makes the installation of the meter, the customer will be billed for a one-time inspection fee of \$100.00 by the Utility. Payment of the installation fee or Inspection fee shall be due upon application.

Reconnection Charges **\$ 35.00**
Disconnection Charges
Tampering Charge

\$ 40.00
\$250.00

SEWER

Monthly Charges	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Residential – charge per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit:	\$40.56 per unit	\$51.03 per unit
Mobile Homes:	\$28.88 per unit	\$36.33 per unit
Commercial:	\$40.56 per SFE*	\$51.03 per SFE*

Commercial customers are those not included in the residential category above and include, but are not limited to, hotels, stores, restaurants, office, industry, etc.

**Charge for Sewer Collection
Only**

When sewage is collected by the Utility and transferred to a government body or agency, or other entity, for treatment, the Utility's rates are as follows:

Residential – per single-family house, condominium, or apartment unit	\$26.73 per unit	\$33.63 per unit
Commercial – per single-family equivalent	\$26.73 per SFE*	\$33.63 per SFE*
Charge for Wholesale Service (Midlands Utility)	\$18.78 per SFE*	\$23.63 per SFE*

Solids Interceptor Tanks

For all customers receiving sewage collection service through an approved solids interceptor tank, the following additional charges shall apply:

Pumping Charge (current language)

At such time as the Utility determines through its inspection that excessive solids have accumulated in the interceptor tank, the Utility will arrange for the pumping tank and will include \$150.00 as a separate item in the next regular billing to the customer.

Pumping Charge (proposed language)

At such time as the Utility determines through its inspection that excessive solids have accumulated in the interceptor tank, the Utility will arrange for pumping the tank and the **actual cost** to the Utility for pumping the tank will be billed to the customer; the minimum pumping charge shall be \$150.00. The cost of the Utility's pumping charge will be included as a separate item in the next regular billing to the customer.

Reconnection Charges: (current language that is not included in proposed tariff) In addition to any other charges that may be due, a reconnection fee of two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollars shall be due prior to the Utility reconnecting service which has been disconnected for any reason set for the in Commission Rule 103-532.4. Where an elder valve has been previously installed, a reconnection charge of thirty-five (\$35.00) shall be due. Customers who ask to be reconnected within nine months of disconnection will be charged the monthly service charge for the service period they were disconnected.

Disconnection Charge: (proposed language) In addition to any other charges that may be due, in those cases where a customer's service has been disconnected for any reason as set forth in Commission Rule 103-532.4, the customer is found to have vacated his premises or the customer has shown his intent to vacate his premises, a disconnection fee in the amount of \$500.00 shall be due at the time the customer disconnects service. Where an elder valve has been previously installed, a disconnection fee of \$40.00 shall be charged.

Tampering Charge: (proposed language) In the event the Utility's equipment, sewage pipes, meters, curb stops, service lines, elder valves or other facilities have been damaged, tampered with or molested by a customer, the Utility may charge a customer in any responsible for the damage a fee of \$250.00 to repair the Utility's facilities.

A copy of the Company's Application can be obtained from the Commission at the following address: Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Clerk's Office, P. O. Drawer 11649, Columbia, South Carolina 29211. Additionally, Carolina Water Service, Inc.'s Application is available on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov.

In order for testimony and evidence to be received from all interested parties, a public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, South Carolina on **Tuesday, January 14, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.**

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before **October 18, 2013**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. *Please refer to Docket No. 2013-275-WS.*

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify the Clerk's Office, in writing, at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and Charles L. A. Terreni, Esquire, Terreni Law Firm, LLC and Scott Elliott, Esquire, Elliott & Elliott, P.A., 1508 Lady Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 on or before **October 18, 2013**, and indicate the amount of time required for the presentation. *Please refer to Docket No. 2013-275-WS.*

Any person who wishes to request a hearing in his or her county of residence, and does not want to intervene as a party of record in this matter, should notify on or before November 1, 2013, in writing, the Clerk's Office at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and Charles L. A. Terreni, Esquire, Terreni Law Firm, LLC and Scott Elliott, Esquire, Elliott & Elliott, P.A., 1508 Lady Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. *Please refer to Docket No. 2013-275-WS.*

Any person, who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Clerk's Office in writing at the address below on or before **October 18, 2013**. *Please refer to Docket No. 2013-275-WS.*

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission in Columbia at 803-896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Clerk's Office
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211